(c) and (d) The Conference unanimously adopted the 'Delhi Declaration, 1994' which was presented in person by the then President of ICWA to the Secretary General of the United Nations, H.E. Mr. Boutros Boutros Ghali. The Conference Report and the 'Delhi Declaration, 1994' were also sent to the Minister of State for External Affairs, Members of Parliament and the delegates who participated in the Conference.

Opening of new passport offices

2288. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVE: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether some State Governments have asked the Central Government to open new passport offices in their respective status; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The State Government of Chhattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttaranchal have requested Government of India to open Passport Offices in their respective States. There is already a Passport Application Collection Centre (PACC) in Shimla in Himachal Pradesh. However, due to various constraints, Government is not in a position to open more Passport Offices at present.

Easing of Emigration rule

2289. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are proposing to easing the emigration rules by including "SSLC qualification" under the "Emigration Clearance Not Required" (ECNR) category;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to adopt to exercise strict control over unauthorized entry of Indian passport holders, especially through India-based unscrupulous agents, thereby causing untold misery on prospective job-seekers abroad, especially in middle east; and

(c) the number of such cases of illegal Indian emigrants who have been repatriated to India, after the foreign countries convicted such Indian passport holders, during 1st July 2003 to 30th June 2004?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) Yes, Sir. After a comprehensive review, the benchmark for obtaining passports with "Emigration Check Not Required (ECNR)" endorsement has been lowered from graduation to 10+2 class pass.

(b) The Government has already initiated comprehensive steps in consultation with all concerned which include, *inter-alia,* prior attestation of employment documents by the concerned Indian Missions, improved Co-ordination with other Ministries and implementation of a modernisation/ computerisation project for strict control over agencies responsible for providing employment abroad to Indian workers.

(c) As per the information received, 2174 Indians were repatriated/ deported between 1st July, 2003 to 30th June,2004.

EPF Contribution by big companies

2290. SHRI AJAY SINGH CHAUTALA: Will the Minister of LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether all the big PSUs and private companies whose turnover is more than Rs.50 crores are contributing to the EPF regularly;

(b) if so, the details thereof during the last three years;

(c) the number of big PSUs and companies that are defaulters and what amount of EPF is outstanding against them as on date; and

(d) what action Government propose in this regard in near future?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND EMPLOYMENT (SHRI K. CHANDRASEKHAR RAO): (a) to (c) Compliance under the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 is not linked with the turnover of the establishments. However, many big PSUs and private companies have defaulted in payment of PF dues. Region-wise details of big defaulters (Rs. 10 lakh & above) is given in the enclosed Statement (*See* below).

(d) Recovery of the dues from defaulting establishments is made in accordance with the provisions of the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952. This includes prosecution under Section 14 of the Act, filing complaints under Sec. 406, 409 of IPC, attachment of properties/bank accounts and arrest of defaulters. The